The major trends in Western Europe at present, which are due to continue during the next two years, are the development and organization of its military defenses, inside and outside NATO, and the integration of thexwesternxEuropeanxeconomicsxWesternxEurope Continental Western Europe. Rath These trends respondencemental are in accord with the two major US objectives in the area. Rockextremes The continuance of both these trends threatens to contain further Soviet EXEMISION penetration and expansion into Western Europe. The mffmdtxxxx effect on the position of the US versus the USSR ischementary problemuisenixximdeterminatex depends suxunxexesedinglyxcomplexx thexwhetherxwestermxwestermxwestermx mainly on how the Western Europeans will come to interpret US policies. and xukinnaxx If the belief grows in Western Europe that US policies are founded on the assumption of an underlying community of interest, the US position versus the USSR will become stronger. If the belief grows, instead, that US policies are founded on mere expediency-the desire to set up a kwiferxxxxx defensive buffer zone or even an offensive forward base against the USSR---the US position versus the USSR will **Blightly** XMERE become correspondingly weaker, On balance, it seems likely that xthe probable

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faragrakalisf (taking into account US policies) that the former belief

will gain some ground over the latter, over harapaxa Western Europe as

a whole. The continuing major threat to the US in the area from Approved For Release 2000/08/29: CIA-RDP79S01011A000500020046-3

Approved For Release 2000/08/29: CIA-RDP79S01011A000500020046-3 (in Europe of elsewhere the Soviet Union is some form of military aggression, resulting in situations and US actions tending to spread the belief that the US interest in Europe is (and can only be) fundamentally military.

NAT Military Strength The total armed strength of the European NAT members (including the UK) by mid-1943 will be determined mainly by the by the US priorities assigned during the next few months to meeting their prospective for materials, machinem, and cut-items of US capacity and the equipment (and re-requipment) of US forces. In any event the miditary strength contributed to NAT by its European members will be a good deal less---and a good deal less well balanced---than the estimated optimum assumed for purposes of US aid programming. On the assumption that US plant expansion continues and US armed forces are equipped as presently projected, the actual military strength of the European NAT members in mid-1953 --- in terms of balanced forces fully trained and equipped (with appropriate operating reserves and replacements) --might amount to as little as half the strength required to meet MTDP schedules. Even on that assumption, however, the scale of their total expenditures for defense might not fall far short of the scale of expenditure to which they have committed themselves, and they might also have come close to meeting their commitments in numbers of troops trained and under arms. There appears to be a good prospect that, barring major changes in the world military situation, NAT plans for the defense of Europe By mid = 1953 will be established on a basis considered acceptable by the responsible political leaders and realistic by the responsible military leaders of the principal NAT countries.

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Economic Burdens The European NAT countries will continually be readjusting their defense activities --- particularly those relating to munitions production----to minimize the strictly economic effects of rearmament, according to their several national policies. Their economies will nevertheless remain highly unstable, under the influence of world market conditions and various internal pressures beyond the control of their governments, individually and collectively. US economic policies will decisively affect the European economies. The immediate effects, under presently established policies, will be generally inflationary, but not to an unbearable extent. European officials, business men, and bankers will remain concerned over the possible emergence of deflationary tendencies, and by the end of the period this may well have become their main concern. inherent instability and rigidity of the European economies will continue to be the real limitation on the development of European defense.

Political Stability The "center" elements in all the European parliaments and cabinets will continue to be divided among themselves on important issues of internal policy. In case the world situation does not become expressive more precarious as a result of Soviet and US moves and countermoves, however, the collective strength of the "center" elements may have begun to increase by the end of 1952, lessening the bargaining power in internal affairs of the various elements supporting the governments in foreign policy. The present leadership of the major center parties throughout Europe is generally skilful and responsible enough to take advantage of such a tendency. The possible replacements of some of these leaders by younger men less tried and experienced, less widely known and respected, adds considerable uncertainty to the political future, particularly in France and Italy, where the existence of strong Communist parties will tend to weaken the "center" elements at the expense of nationalistic, authoritarian rightist movements. The least predictable of the Western European countries is Western Germany. The government of an independent Western Germany, with its nationalist traditions and its renewed strength, will find very onerous the limitations inherent in its international position. crucial political problem in all the Western European countries is the strength of the trades union leadership ready to support the

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aims of NAT and the ability and willingness of the political leaders behind NATO to manage internal policies in such a way as to win and hold trades unions support. With skill and luck, the present granteness pro-NAT leaders should be able to hold their own on the promise that Europe will be "over the hump" by 1953 and entering an era of stability, justice, and prosperity.

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European Confidence and Will to Resist The morale of Europe should continue slowly to with the rise of A improve waxy materially was a new generation, dissociated from the x which manaiders that xit kand x littlex feels dissociated from events is capable of responding strongly before and during World War II, and responds to the purposefulness injected into postwar Europe by the United States. This group generation x the xterest x which xitx is the x main x sinx of xthe x communists: tikawinaxtaxeetixinfiumemaxamixemiintx To influence and enlist this mother generation is maximum a major to keen withe of the US, as it is of The 13 is to combine Soviet, policy. The great most urgent taskyxtoxgivexthexmilitary introducexintexthextrainingxofxthexnewxsrmiesxefxmaxkhexContx trainingxoxxxxxxxitxthat efficiency and respect for the individual European in the training of the new armiex Continental armies, waxthe while continuing and expanding the hodyxufxdeetring influence of parallel the ideas associated with the doctrine of "productivityl" The greater by no means part of the older great generation, though met immune to will continue to be governed by waskx old loyalties and influence earlier hopes and disappointments, and will remain fearful, and sceptical, and on the whole passive. The influence of this generation podátáce cioune dienscende will still deminate pie be predominant in The Rarliaments x newspapers x and reducations with the organized western whose all the organized activities of Western Europe, in besides y to the list, politics; 5 chools etion, tradesxunions laborxandxbusinessxorganizationxxand

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unions.

European Unity and Cohesion As the MATO forces become larger, better equipped, and better trained, the MATOx NAT organization will become mirronger more effective, which is the real measure of Western strength, will though this qualitative improvement, will lag \*\*\*ansiderably\* behind the quantitative improvement in the defense of Western Europe. By mid-1953 the naval and air elements in NATO should be very making well organized. The NAT ground forces will be byxxxxmeansxemaixtexximxvallxemmeghxtmxxmeakyxembalamx at too many different stages of readiness, bath in numbers, make in training, and in equipment, and the discrepancy between plans and actuality will me still t be too great, to permit mixeffective their being well organized. It seems very probable that increavill will be taken he significant steps toward intraviluropeanxintegration integrating the femtimental activities of Western Europe---through the Karepeanxiray Schumann Plang the European Army, the CEEC, and the EPU, and even (perhaps) the Council of Europe. Present European leadership is clearly anxious to avoid trouble over the many questions before them that are capable of arousing national antagonisms at home and abroad. of this kind. issuesxis however, is by fundingxthesexissues asserting the positive idea of European integration so as toxeroid not to have to handle them bilaterally, with calling on the good offices of the US. Whether the will take x the European governments will take aggressive action to carry out the idea of European integration is antirelyxproblematicalix very largely dependent on the personal courage of a few leaders. The odds are somewhat in favor of their making the effort. If they can agree to make the effort, the odds are strongly in favor of their amesanding

success in dispersion avoiding application of the wide provided the wide provided by the US.

Germany, Greece, and Turkey will all become full-fledged members of NATO during the period. Spain and Yugoslavia will not knewner be accepted as members or associates, unless there was except in the improbable event that they their governments undergo radical transformations. The accession of Germany taxNATO will enormously strengthen the potential strength of NAT, but will not add greatly to NAT strength in being in 1953. The one major probable risk involved in admitting Germany, Greece, and Turkey to NATO is that of a strongly adverse Soviet reactions.

What might be the effect of Soviet pressures on the developing NAT fabric? The probable impact of a Soviet attempt at a broad relaxation of tensions would be a slowing and scaling down of European (and present with probably of US) rearmament. This would be a good thing for Europe, for for US-European relations, and the US, and for NATO xxhencexitxisxratherximpropablex (and hence, rather improbable). Other Soviet cold-war moves are not likely to have any significant effect, except within the Soviet bloc and the Western European Communist parties. The main danger to Western Europe, to NATO, and to US relations with Europe, is the possibility of military xmail some kind of military action by Satellite forces, regular or irregular, at make one or more points along the frontier between not directly of the Soviet bloc. The powerful desire of the European NAT members  $\alpha$  affected to localize any wark counteraction, and the fear of US pressure to Extendithex HENRE broaden its scope, would create major problems, calling for a very high degree of courage and self-control. EXECUTE:

The US Role The growth of European strength will depend to a lassxamic leasx decisive extent on US aid (as already indicated), indicated), indicated), indicated require xerxeremxpersitx washing the European governments will continue to acknowledge, and stress, the enormous impact that US action will have on Europe, and will seek US collaboration and support, both on a bilateral and a multilateral basis. But the development of European strenth will less and less require or permit US multipers to take the initiative in determining European policies, and this fact should is have become very plain by the mid-1953.